18. (Amended) A method of producing an amino acid, comprising:

cultivating the bacterium as defined in claim 22, which has an ability to produce the amino acid, in a culture medium, to produce and accumulate the amino acid in the medium, and

recovering the amino acid from the medium.

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24. (Amended) The bacterium according to claim 22, wherein said bacterium is modified to increase an activity of the protein which makes the bacterium harboring the protein L-threonine-resistant in comparison to a wild-type *Escherichia* bacterium by transformation of said bacterium with DNA coding for the protein, which comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

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27. (Amended) The bacterium according to claim 22, wherein said bacterium is modified to increase an activity of the protein which makes the bacterium harboring the protein L-threonine-resistant by enhancing expression of a gene coding for the protein which comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 in comparison to expression by a wild-type *Escherichia* bacterium.

28. (Amended) The bacterium according to claim 23, wherein said bacterium is modified to increase an activity of the protein which makes the bacterium harboring the protein L-threonine-resistant by enhancing expression of a gene coding for the protein which comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 in comparison to expression by a wild-type *Escherichia* bacterium.

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29. (Amended) The bacterium according to claim 23, wherein said bacterium is modified to increase an activity of the protein which makes the bacterium harboring the protein L-homoserine-resistant by enhancing expression of a gene coding for the protein which comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 in comparison to expression by a wild-type *Escherichia* bacterium.

30. (Amended) An isolated bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia*, wherein said bacterium is modified to increase an activity of a protein which makes the bacterium harboring the protein L-threonine-resistant in comparison to a wild-type *Escherichia* bacterium, and wherein the protein is encoded by a DNA which is defined in the following (a) or (b):

73 (a) a DNA which comprises the nucleotide sequence of nucleotide numbers 187 to 804 in SEQ ID NO: 3; or

(b) a DNA which hybridizes to nucleotides 187 to 804 of SEQ ID NO: 3 under a stringent condition, wherein the stringent condition is a condition in which washing is performed at 60°C, and at a salt concentration corresponding to 1 x SSC and 0.1% SDS.

32. (Amended) The bacterium according to claim 31, wherein said bacterium is further modified to increase an activity of a protein which makes the bacterium harboring the

74 protein L-homoserine-resistant in comparison to a wild-type *Escherichia* bacterium, and which comprises the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2.

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 11-15 have been canceled.

Claims 18, 24, 27-30, and 32 have been amended.

The amendment of Claims 18, 24, 27-30, and 32 is supported by the specification as originally filed at pages 2-36. No new matter is believed to have been introduced by the present amendment.